

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US
SUBJECT: GREEK PRESS REPORTS ON "EMISSARY" FROM PRESIDENT-
ELECT CARTER

1. THE ATHENS PRESS PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE DECEMBER 11-18 VISIT TO ATHENS AND CYPRUS OF COSTAS ALEXANDRIDES, AN AMERICAN OF GREEK ORIGIN WHO NOW TEACHES IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. PROFESSOR ALEXANDRIDES, WHO CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF SEVERAL ATHENIAN DAILIES BEFORE THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, AND WHOSE VISIT TO GREECE WAS PRECEDED BY A GOOD DEAL OF ANTICIPATION IN LOCAL MEDIA CIRCULES, WAS TYPICALLY IDENTIFIED BY THE GREEK PRESS AS A "CLOSE AIDE AND ADVISER OF THE U.S. PRESIDENT-ELECT."
2. WHILE IN ATHENS, PROFESSOR ALEXANDRIDES MET WITH OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS, MET WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS BRIEFLY WHEN BOTH WERE AT A SUBURBAN RESTAURANT, AND CALLED UPON AMBASSADOR KUBISCH. HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HIS VIST WAS PURELY PRIVATE AND UNOFFICIAL AND THAT HE WAS ENDEAVORING TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE, ALTHOUGH WITH LIMITED SUCCESS.
3. PROFESSOR ALEXANDRIDES' PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED CON-
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SIDERABLE ATTENTION. TO DATE THEY REPORTEDLY INCLUDED:
--STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER WILL
GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WHEN HE ASSUMES OFFICE;

--COMMENTS EMPHASIZING THE MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS AMONG GREECE,
TURKEY AND CYPRUS AND THE NEED FOR COOPERATION AMONG THEM;

--DECLARATIONS THAT THE CYPRIOT PROBLEM HAD TO BE SETTLED
BY THE CYPRIOTS NOT BY THE UNITED STATES, THOUGH THE NEW
ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO CONTRIBUTE IMPORTANTLY TOWARDS THE
RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE. OVER ALL, PROFESSOR ALEXANDRIDES'
REPORTED COMMENTS HEWED CLOSELY TO WHAT THE PRESIDENT-
ELECT HIMSELF HAS REPORTEDLY HAD TO SAY PUBLICLY ON CYPRUS AND
OTHER ISSUES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.
KUBISCH

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